The American Church Missionary Society.

THE MISSION IN BRAZIL.

ADVENT 1900.

CHURCH MISSIONS HOUSE,
281 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

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The Brazil Mission.

The story of the Brazil Mission is a brave story of strong, devoted men and of remarkable accomplishment. About a decade ago the Missionary enterprise had its conception in the Theological Seminary of Virginia, where always there has been evinced so much sympathy and enthusiasm in the construction of the real purpose of the Church, and the acceptance of our Lord's commission. But many difficulties had to be overcome before any beginning could be had in the undertaking; and so great were these difficulties that at times it appeared as if the project might have to be abandoned. But God was with those who had it at heart.

On May 15, 1889, the American Church Missionary Society, after long deliberation, determined to foster this work, and directly accepted the Rev. James W. Morris and the Rev. Lucien Lee Kinsolving as candidates for Missionary work to be inaugurated in Brazil. The end of the greatest difficulties had been reached. On September 1, 1889, these two young clergymen, denying themselves many flattering offers, turning aside from personal preferences, and sacrificing many things, sailed from Norfolk, Va., for the Far South. Much interest and enthusiasm had been excited in a large meeting in St. Paul's, Richmond, Va., some time before their departure, and many kind wishes and blessings were showered upon them in other places, especially in Philadelphia, another spot wherein Missionary zeal and generosity characterize the people of God's holy Church, and where similar meetings had occurred.

They first went to São Paulo, where they remained a while, in order to acquire the Portuguese language and that experience necessary to a fair beginning of their intended work. Subsequently, they inaugurated the Missionary work of this Church in Brazil, in Porto Alegre, the capital of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, and in June, 1890, opened a chapel. The work prospered, the people responded to their Christian teachings, opportunity developed, and the tidings sent back to the home land recreated spiritual zeal and Missionary enthusiasm. A new field had been opened, a new call was heard, and this Church looked into a larger future full of promise.

In 1891, the Rev. Wm. Cabell Brown and the Rev. John G. Meem, and Miss Mary Packard, with others, offered their lives and service for the Brazil Mission. The three were accepted, and over many difficulties, again occurring—the interference of evil will thrust itself—it was made possible

for them to go. The story of their struggle—it was largely their own struggle—to overcome these new difficulties was an expression of their determination, strong and pathetic, and in it may be seen the sign of that devotion and that purpose which could not help but succeed in God's work. One instance in particular is recalled. In the early part of 1891 a meeting was held in Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, and an appeal made for necessary funds. It is said that as the prospect failed to become as bright as was hoped for, the Rev. Mr. Brown became absorbed in the seriousness of the threat against their purpose, and his face showed the trial he was undergoing. A gentleman noticed the expression, and correctly construing it, approached him and said, "Do not be worried, you will be sent." It was Mr. Alexander Brown, and a special check for $1,000 was subsequently found in the offering. It was Mr. Brown's, and for the sending of this Missionary. Would that it could be that now in this time of urgent need incident upon success, when we are compelled to say to those at work in that distant field, even as God's opportunity asks satisfaction, "Stop, we have no means for the development of the work," some one like this generous man might find himself called and able to follow this example, and further the Lord's own purpose in Brazil.

On September 12, 1891, these three Missionaries sailed for Brazil from Newport News, Va., arriving in due time in Rio Grande do Sul, and the Brazil Mission was established. The Convocation was organized, its officers appointed, and with fresh organic life the Mission began its promising work. From then on its story has been full of action, encouragement, and successful accomplishment. The Society urged the generosity of its friends toward this work, and they met the appeal; the men and women in the field pushed the work, and won men and women to Christ, and fixed their work in the esteem of the people. They are doing this still; can our constituency here be kept as true and as generous, a splendid end is before the Church in Brazil.

Our Missionaries found Brazil with a picturesque life, and a civilization not without its fascinations, but with its ideals crushed, and its inspiration stifled in the long domination of neglect and shame under the Roman Church. The civilization had suffered much, and the reaction had been terrible, but it was ready for a new inspiration, and for those ideals which Christ's truth was bound to lift before them.

The work spread and grew. In Rio Grande as in Porto Alegre, in Pelotas, in Contracto, in Viamao, San José do Norte, Jaguarão and in other places chapels were established or services begun and continued, and congregations won. Rapid development followed, and confirmations were had. The Bishop of West Virginia, in charge of the Mission, visited Brazil in 1893, and confirmed 142 candidates. Catechists were admitted, and presently became candidates for Holy Orders, and at this same time Bishop Peterkin ordered from among them four Deacons. Of these the Rev.

Messrs. Amerigo V. Cabral, Vicente Brande, and Antonio M. de Fraga are still faithfully and successfully at work. Lay Readers were also appointed, and to-day Messrs. Alfredo C. Dias, José L. Ferreira, Julio A. Coelho and Alberto D. Jarrys are notably doing their Master's service.

In 1893, there were 151 communicants in the Missions; in 1897, the Bishop of the Falkland Islands confirmed 159 persons, and there were 319 communicants; and in 1898 there were 336 communicants, and a number awaiting confirmation. At this time—during eight years—the Mission had contributed $3,000 toward its own support.

The time had now arrived when there was urgent demand for the completion of the organic life so well begun, and at the General Convention of 1898, held in the city of Washington, the House of Bishops was petitioned to elect a Bishop for the Mission. They assented, and the Rev. Lucien Lee Kinsolving, the choice of his brother Missionaries, was elected. In St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1899, he was consecrated by the Bishops of Kentucky, Albany and West Virginia, assisted by the Bishop of Texas, who preached the sermon, and the Bishops of New York, Massachusetts, and the Bishop-Coadjutor of Rhode Island. So was completed the organic Missionary structure in Brazil.

After a short time of appeal in the United States, Bishop Kinsolving returned to his field of labor, and with him the Society sent the Rev. G. W. Ribble, Deacon, and Miss Maria R. Pitts, Deaconess. New life has by this notable event been thrown into the Mission, and appeals from other places in this portion of Brazil have come. As one Mission develops, another town asks the establishment of Church work in its midst.

Before October 1st, though compelled through the long illness of the Rev. Mr. Morris, to do the local work in Porto Alegre, the Bishop confirmed 123 persons.

But in response to pathetic appeals and absolute need he has found himself compelled to open a new Mission at Santa Maria, and taking charge of the station in Porto Alegre himself, he has sent the Rev. J. W. Morris to this new work. In it, with the Rev. Mr. Morris, the Rev. Mr. Ribble is associated, and he will continue there until he has sufficiently acquired the Portuguese language, and such proficiency in a study of conditions and methods as will justify an independent charge. But it is pleasant to know that this latest Missionary has exhibited a rapid advancement in his new field, and such capacity as has impelled the congratulation of his Bishop. Miss Pitts is now associated with the Rev. Mr. Brown in the work in Rio Grande, and her friends know that her devotion and energy will soon show their effect in this fair field of Missionary enterprise.

Little notice has been made of the lay work in this field, but from the very start the Missionaries enlisted both men and women in their work, and from that time on these gentlemen and ladies have been potent factors

in the splendid accomplishment of the Church in Brazil. Notable among these lay-workers have been the devoted wives of the clergy.

The Bible is now distributed, and read of the people in their own language, the Prayer Book has been translated into Portuguese, stamped with the certificate of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer, and given to the people, and used in their worship, and a Woman's Auxiliary has been long since organized, sending its offering regularly to the United Offering of the institution.

Really ten years has given us a Church in Brazil, small it is true, and as yet almost entirely dependent upon the generosity of the home land, but it is the Church, and its work stands for much, and promises much more. (See appended statistics.)

This is the very brief story of the Brazil Mission, but in it there is only a hint of that enthusiasm, sacrifice and devotion which fills it with Christian pathos, and would touch, could it be told, the sympathy and generosity of those who in the comforts and indulgence of a home among kin and friends might read it.

The future lies before it as bright as God's day, and its opportunities have opened wide the gates. At the post of duty one finds no fault, no delay, no lethargy. There all is well. But here, at the center of resources and supply, it is not so fair. The freshness of the enterprise has worn off, men and women have been enthused along other lines as well, and the time of neglect or forgetfulness is seen. But surely with a new remembrance of the work and the workers, Christ's manifest will, and the success which has already come through obedience to it, will again stir up the hearts of faithful people, and the interest here shall again be made brave and strong, and as generous as it is way yonder in the South, where our brethern labor in God's cause. Sixteen thousand dollars must be had this year (1900) or there shall be serious threat, it may be loss. God forefend that. God persuade some of His people to rise to the issue and bless. And the laborer shall have earned his peace.

TABLE OF STATISTICS OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF BRAZIL FOR YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 1900.

Name of Church or Chapel, with Locality.	Other Work in Connection Therewith.	Clergy. The Rt. Rev. Lucien Lee Kinsolving, S.T.D., Bishop, Porto Alegre.	Deaconesses.	Candidates for Holy Orders and Postulants.	Baptisms.	Confirmations.	Communions.	Communicants.	Weddings.	Burials.	Sunday-School Scholars.	Sunday-School Teachers.	Divine Services.	Church Buildings.	Church Buildings (in Construction).	Contributions from the Field.
Holy Trinity Chapel, in Porto Alegre, the capital.	English Congregation.	Rev. Americo V. Cabral.	Miss Packard, Acting Deaconess and Teacher.	....	15	42	15	111	3	7	57	4	186	..	..	Milreis. 4,916,100
Grace Church, in Viamão.	....	Rev. A. V. Cabral.	...	..	13	8	3	25	..	15	..	..	67	1	..	262,040
Calvary Church, in Santa Rita do Rio dos Sinos.	....	Rev. Antonio M. de Fraga.	...	....	23	36	13	95	5	4	20	3	105	1	..	2,624,390
Chapel of the Saviour, in Rio Grande.	English Congregation, Chapel of the Resurrection, in São José.	Rev. William Cabell Brown, D.D.	Miss Pitts.	1 cand. 1 pos't	24	33	16	110	4	21	110	9	231	..	1	16,026,910
Chapel of the Redeemer, in Pelotas.	Chapel of the Holy Spirit in Areal.	Rev. John G. Meem.	....	1 cand.	17	15	13	86	1	4	96	8	211	..	..	3,340,840
Chapel of the Redemption, in Jaguarão.	....	Rev. Vicente Brande, Rev. G. Wallace Ribble, Deacon (temporarily in Jaguarão).	....	....	6	13	7	14	..	4	35	1	76	..	..	222,000
Chapel of the Mediator, in Santa Maria da Bocca do Monte.	This work was opened on Feb. 11, 1900 (Septuag. Sund.)	Rev. James Watson Morris.	....	....	3	..	1	2	1	2	60	2	35	..	..	60,000
7	4	Bishops.... .....1 Priests.... .....6 Deacons.... -... .1	Deaconess.. .....1 Acting Deaconess....1	cand s, 2 Post'ts, 1	101	147	68	443	14	57	378	27	911	2	1	27,452,280

27,452,280 milreis was worth, on May 31, 1900, in United States gold, $4,991.32.

JOHN G. MEEM,
Official Statistician.